

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /038 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC ALERT LIST: ROMANIAN TRACTOR SALE TO GUINEA

REF: STATE A-3503

1. DURING ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO GUINEA IN 1974 ROMANIA AND GUINEA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING AN USD 80 MILLION LONG TERM CREDIT TO THE GOG FOR PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, FOR THE MINING AND PROCESSING OF BAUXITE AND FOR OTHER PROJECTS.

2. UNDER THIS CREDIT ROMANIA IS PROVIDING GUINEA WITH 3,000 UNIVERSAL 650 M TRACTORS. THESE TRACTORS HAVE BEEN ARRIVING IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS AND ARE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN CONAKRY AND IN THE INTERIOR. ACCORDING TO THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR, 2,200 TRACTORS PLUS ASSORTED TRAILERS, PLOWS, DISCS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED AS OF THE END OF 1975. THE MAINTENANCE HAS PREDICTABLY PROVED TO BE A GREAT PROBLEM. THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ESTABLISH SEVEN MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS CENTERS, STAFFED BY ROMANIAN MECHANICS WHO WILL TRAIN GUINEAN COUNTERPARTS.

3. SHIPPING COSTS FOR THE EQUIPMENT ALREADY DELIVERED WAS INCLUDED IN THE CREDIT AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, TRANSPORT COSTS ON SHIPMENTS AFTER JANUARY 1, 1976 WILL BE BORNE DIRECTLY BY THE GOG. THE TOTAL COST OF THE TRACTORS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT IS ESTIMATED AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USD 15-20 MILLION. THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR LIKES TO REFER

TO THIS LARGE SUPPLY OF TRACTORS AS A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION,
ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NO PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE AND NONE
WILL BE FOR A LONG TIME. THE EMBASSY HAS NO MORE PRECISE INFORMAT-
ION ABOUT THE CREDIT TERMS INVOLVED.
MACDONALD

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